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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/964,412	09/28/2001	Suzanne De La Monte	0609.4370004/RWE/FRC	2051
26111	7590	02/26/2004	EXAMINER	
STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX PLLC 1100 NEW YORK AVENUE, N.W. WASHINGTON, DC 20005				MCGARRY, SEAN
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
		1635		

DATE MAILED: 02/26/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	09/964,412	DE LA MONTE ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Sean R McGarry	1635	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 December 2003.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 35-52 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) 35-52 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date: _____ | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Election/Restrictions

The following restriction is made in response to applicant response filed 12/19/03. Applicant has canceled the claim under examination and submitted new claims 35-52 which includes specific sequences, for example. The burden of searching and examining all of the different invention has become apparent in the filing of the new claims.

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 35-42, drawn to a method of treating or preventing dementias of the Alzheimer's type of neuronal degeneration via the administration of antisense oligonucleotides, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- II. Claims 43-45, drawn to a method of treating or preventing dementias of the Alzheimer's type of neuronal degeneration via the administration of ribozymes, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- III. Claims 46-48, drawn to a method of treating or preventing dementias of the Alzheimer's type of neuronal degeneration via the administration of triplex forming oligonucleotides, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

IV. Claims 49-52, drawn to a method of treating or preventing dementias of the Alzheimer's type of neuronal degeneration via the administration of external guide sequences, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions I-IV. Inventions are unrelated if it can be shown that they are not disclosed as capable of use together and they have different modes of operation, different functions, or different effects (MPEP § 806.04, MPEP § 808.01). In the instant case the different inventions are different methods that use materially different compounds that act via different mechanisms to inhibit expression of a gene, for example. Antisense function via the recruitment of Rnase H, ribozymes catalytically cleave their target, EGS function in combination with RNase P, for example.

Groups I and IV are further restricted as below:

Pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 121 and 37 C.F.R. 1.141, the sequences listed in claims 38 and 51 are subject to restriction. The Commissioner has partially waived the requirements of 37 C.F.R. 1.141 and will permit a reasonable number of such nucleotide sequences to be claimed in a single application. Under this policy, up to 10 of independent and distinct nucleotide sequences will be examined in a single application. (see MPEP 803.04 and 2434)

The above claims in groups I and IV specifically claim antisense or EGSS by SEQ ID NOS which are targeted to and modulates the expression of NTP. Although the sequences claimed each target the same gene, the instant sequences are considered to be unrelated, since each sequence claimed is structurally and functionally independent and distinct for the following reasons: each sequence has a unique nucleotide sequence, each sequence targets a different and specific region of NTP, and each, upon binding, functionally decreases the expression of the gene and to varying degree. Furthermore, a search of more than one (1) of the sequences claimed presents an undue burden on the Patent and Trademark Office due to the complex nature of the search and corresponding examination of more than one (1) of the claimed sequences. In view of the foregoing, one (1) sequence is considered to be a reasonable number of sequences for examination. Accordingly, applicants are required to elect one (1) sequence from claim 38 or 51 upon the election of Group I or II respectively.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Art Unit: 1635

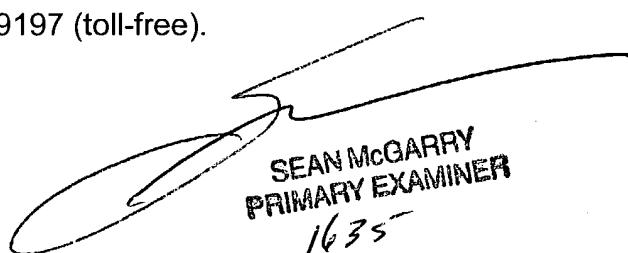
Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sean R McGarry whose telephone number is (571) 272-0761. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th (6:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John LeGuyader can be reached on (571) 272-0760. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

SRM


SEAN McGARRY
PRIMARY EXAMINER
1635